

M- 67,050

S-204,209

OCT 31 1967

Brown Protests Okayed

The president of Brown University last night reaffirmed students' rights to protest peacefully campus visits by the Central Intelligence Agency and Dow Chemical Company recruiters, but said the demonstrations should not interfere with the actual interviews.

Dr. Ray L. Heffner issued a prepared statement on the eve of a visit by a recruiter from Dow, manufacturer of napalm used in the Vietnam War.

The Brown Campus Action Council has indicated to Dr. Heffner that it plans to protest the recruiter's presence today.

A spokesman for the student group said that about 40 members last night decided to stage a sit-in this morning at the room in which the CIA recruiter is scheduled to have his interviews.

The spokesman described the demonstration as "totally non-violent" and said the recruiter and those wishing interviews would be allowed to pass into the room and to leave it at any time.

About 25 persons will sit-in and at least that many will picket outside the placement office distributing leaflets explaining the sit-in and the objections to the CIA, he added.

The group has decided that it should not dissipate its strength by also trying to demonstrate against the Dow Chemical recruiter, the spokesman said.

"The CIA is a much more clear and obvious evil," he said.

The interviews have been arranged by the college placement bureaus as a service to students, Dr. Heffner said.

"No student, of course, is required to use the services of one of the placement offices or to see the representative of any particular company or agency," the statement said.

"The student's right to make use of this service should be affirmed and protected. Students who interfere with the rights of other students to conduct placement interviews are guilty of the same kind of disregard for the nature of the university community as are those who attempt to prevent speakers or their fellow students from speaking or being heard," Dr. Heffner said.

The interviewer should be considered an invited guest, just as a public speaker is, Dr. Heffner stated.

The university cannot in good conscience refuse the use of its facilities to any "bona fide company, church or service or

organization, graduate school, or agency of local, state or federal government, so long as a sufficient number of qualified students desire to meet with a representative, and so long as adequate facilities are available," he said.

Some students may wish to question the politics of a company or organization, but a placement interview is not "the most appropriate place for such general debate," the president added.

Dr. Heffner said he shall encourage the organization in the near future of public forums on subjects such as the role of the CIA.

The president said he issued the statement because of questions raised by events on other campuses in recent weeks concerning similar placement interviews.

He repeated portions of a letter which he sent on Sept. 18 to all students. The letter, which made declarations of policy, stated the right of peaceful assembly but said protests involving physical force or obstruction "have no rightful place in Brown University."

Students acting in a way "which adversely affects or seriously interferes with the normal educational function of the university, or which injures or endangers the welfare of any of its other members, shall be subject to university discipline," the policy statement added.

"Except in such situations, students shall not be subject to potential university discipline as a consequence of clearly political activities that may result in violations of civil law."

Dr. Heffner said "the general outlines of Brown policy in all such matters were recommended in a recent report of the Advisory Committee on Student Conduct, which was endorsed by the student governments of Brown and Pembroke and by the faculty, and which I was directed by the Corporation to put into effect."

His September letter contained those outlines.

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